

REMARKS

Claims 6-8, 10-13, 15-18, 25-27, 29-32, 34-37, 44-46, 48-51, and 53-56 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1-5, 9, 14, 19-24, 28, 33, 38-43, 47, 52, and 57 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 20-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly failing to be directed to statutory subject matter. Since claims 20-24, 28, 33, and 38 are canceled, the rejection thereto is rendered moot. Claims 25-27, 29-32, and 34-37 have been amended to recite “using a processor to perform....” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 25-27, 29-32, and 34-37 comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 6-8, 10-13, 15-18, 25-27, 29-32, 34-37, 44-46, 48-51 and 53-56 would be allowed and rewritten in independent form. By this Amendment, Applicants rewrite these claims in independent form, and cancel the remaining claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in immediate condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 4, 19, 20, 22, 23, 38, 39, 41, 42 and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Roy *et al.* (JP 2001-283222, corresponding to US 6,956,569) in view of Nagao *et al.* (US 6,638,811). Claims 2, 5, 9, 14, 28, 24, 21, 33, 40, 43, 47

and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Roy *et al.* and Nagao *et al.* in combination with Savakis *et al.* (US 6,847,733).

Applicants do not acquiesce to these rejections. In order to expedite prosecution, however, Applicants cancel the rejected claims 1-5, 9, 14, 19-24, 28, 33, 38-43, 47, 52, and 57 rendering the rejections moot. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of claims 1-5, 9, 14, 19-24, 28, 33, 38-43, 47, 52, and 57 in any related applications including any continuation applications.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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/Quadeer A. Ahmed/
Quadeer A. Ahmed
Registration No. 60,835